

# South Carolina NPL/NPL Caliber Cleanup Site Summaries

## Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot

EPA ID: SC6170022762

Port Royal, Beaufort County, SC

Congressional District: 02

NPL Status: Proposed: 08/23/94; Final 12/16/94

[Project Manager](#)

### Site Background:

Parris Island MCRD is located on a barrier island off the South Carolina coast, approximately 30 miles northeast of Savannah, Georgia. The site has been operated as a recruit training facility for the U.S. Marine Corps since 1915 and consists mainly of administrative office buildings, training facilities, family and recruit housing, building and vehicle maintenance shops and community facilities. Parris Island MCRD lies within a system of islands, marshes and interconnecting man-made causeways that form a peninsula and consist of roughly 2,894 acres of dry land at the depot and approximately 3,816 acres of salt marshes, tidal ponds and streams. Commercial and recreational fishing activities are conducted in the vicinity of the site. The surrounding area also serves as habitat for migratory threatened and endangered species of wildlife (including the southern bald eagle, the wood stork, the Eskimo curlew and the short-nosed sturgeon) and their food sources. NPL listing of Parris Island MCRD was based on the potential for surface water and human food chain contamination (potential contaminated surface water runoff and/or migration of landfill leachate to adjacent marshes and waterways).

## **Cleanup Progress: Study Underway**

A reportable spill of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) occurred at the dry cleaners in March, 1994, when a storage tank was inadvertently overfilled, spilling PCE into a concrete containment basin. PCE was released to the ground when the containment basin was drained following heavy rains. Base personnel excavated much of the PCE-saturated soil. Subsequent sampling detected limited soil contamination. However, total concentrations of chlorinated solvents in groundwater (including PCE and others) exceeded 1 ppm in two distinct plumes, located 7' and 14' BGS. Based on this information, the decision was made to conduct a non-time critical removal action. The goal of this action is to control groundwater contamination in excess of MCLs by preventing further migration of the groundwater contaminant plume and treating excessively contaminated groundwater at the center of the plume. The Navy completed an engineering evaluation/interim removal work plan (EE/IRWP) which concluded that a groundwater pump and treat system was the best remedial technology this interim action. The EE/IRWP was public noticed in October 1997 and finalized in December 1997. Implementation of the removal action began in Spring 1998 and is currently in operation.

Based on evaluation of the results of previous studies and regulatory inspections, the Parties identified 6 sites as requiring a full Remedial Investigation (RI)/RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) and 14 sites as requiring screening or "site" investigations (to determine if a full RI/RFI is warranted). A Site-Wide Master Work Plan and Site-Specific Sampling & Analysis Work Plans for the 3 highest-priority Operable Units (OUs) were submitted in 1996 and reviewed and approved by the regulatory agencies. These OUs included 3 landfills bordered by salt marshes and tidal creeks. Field work for the RI/RFI for the three sites began in 1998. A draft RI/RFI for Site 3 was submitted in March 1999 and has been finalized and approved. A remedial action decision (ROD) for Site 3 is expected in late 2000. Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) negotiations commenced in 1996. A final FFA is expected in 2001. MCRD submitted an Draft RI Report for Site 2 in December 1999 which is currently under review. A ROD is expected for Site 2 in 2001. The RI Reports for Site 1 and Site 12 are expected in late 2000. The RI Work Plan for Site 45 is expected in late 2000.